



Adult
and
Health

[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)[Covid-19](#)[Justice](#)[Mental Health](#)[Older People](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)**Alzheimer's/Dementia**

[Invitation to participate in online research study on memory and imagination](#)

The Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) are inviting people 65 to 85 years old with a clinical diagnosis of mild dementia to participate in an online research study exploring the relationship between memory, imagination, and emotional wellbeing. The study aims to improve their understanding of cognitive experiences in individuals with a dementia, which may help inform better care and support strategies.



Covid-19

[Next public hearings to start and dates for final hearings in UK Covid Inquiry](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry will start the public hearings for the Module 7 investigation on the different test, trace and isolate programmes across the four nations of the UK, and has confirmed dates for the final public hearings, Module 10, in February 2026.

Justice

[Update on delivery of National Strategy for Community Justice](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'National strategy for community justice: delivery plan update 3 – December 2024', which sets out deliverables which detail the work that will be undertaken to drive improvement nationally towards the aims of the National Strategy for Community Justice.

Mental Health

[Podcast on different aspect of the Adults with Incapacity Act](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland and NHS Education for Scotland have collaborated to produce a series of podcasts on different aspects of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 from a wide range of people sharing their perspectives, learning, and experiences. The new episodes of the podcast, 'There is no such thing as an AWI', feature an advanced clinical practitioner who has recently completed the Assessment of Capacity course and a mental health officer sharing their experiences of using the AWI Act to support people whose discharge from hospital has been delayed.

Older People

[Supporting people in prison to age well](#)

Age Scotland's Health and Wellbeing Team has been working with colleagues at HMP Shotts and NHS Lanarkshire to explore with them ways of supporting older people in prison to age well. After meeting with older long-term prisoners, the team prepared a programme of weekly interactive 'ageing well' sessions, with topics covered including moving your body, connecting with others, exploring food and drink, keeping your brain active, and emotional wellbeing. The focus of support is to identify areas in the daily routines where the older prisoners have the power to make small and sustainable changes for better ageing.

Other Health and Social Care

[A review of social work governance and assurance across Scotland](#)

A review of social work and social care services carried out by the Care Inspectorate found that overall, social work leaders and managers in Scotland worked effectively within often complicated governance arrangements. In most cases these



arrangements were well understood by staff. However, inspectors also found that Scotland's social work services were finding it challenging to match supply with demand and this was exacerbated by increased levels of complexity of need and risk. This meant that social work was at risk of being unable to fulfil its statutory duties in some service areas. A national approach is required to tackle the ongoing recruitment and retention crisis in social work.

[Support for commissioners to implement ethical commissioning and procurement](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has published a report which aims to support commissioners in implementing ethical commissioning and procurement practices within adult social care. Developed in conjunction with the 'Action Learning Set group', the 'Ethical Commissioning Support for Commissioners Learning Report' is intended to be used as a guide for commissioners and others to better understand how to implement the ethical commissioning and procurement principles, support improvement of commissioning practice at local level, and highlight ongoing solutions for the future.

[Reference terms for independent commission into adult social care \(England\)](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health and Social Care has published the Terms of Reference for Baroness Casey's independent commission into adult social care. The commission should start a national conversation about what adult social care should deliver for citizens and build consensus with the public on how best to meet the current and future needs of the population. Undertaken in two phases, first the commission will "focus on how we can make the most of existing resources to improve people's lives over the medium term", and phase two will then consider the long-term transformation of adult social care.

Other

[Programme for Government 2025-26](#)

The First Minister, John Swinney, has set out the Programme for Government for 2025-26, announcing the main policy and legislative priorities for the year ahead. Included in the Programme for Government is a Children and Young People (Care) (Scotland) Bill will be introduced before summer recess to make changes in key areas related to the children's care system, publish a strategy for Public Service Reform in June 2025, with a "strong focus" on efficiency and a prevention-first approach, the National Social Work Agency will be established by Spring 2026, while the National Care Service Advisory Board will meet for the first time in May 2025, and the Scottish Government will develop climate change adaptation guidance specifically for the social care sector. Plans to modernise Adults with Incapacity legislation have been put on hold and the Scottish Government will no longer introduce a Bill on tackling misogyny.



Disclaimer

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on key developments concerning adults and health related issues.

Each item in the bulletin has a hyperlinked headline that will take the reader to the original source.

We collate items from our parliamentary and Scottish Government monitoring covering health and social care news from throughout the UK, and current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources for the bulletin, including alerts from [Newsdirect](#), [Community Care](#), [Children & Young People Now](#) and [ISD Scotland](#).

We aim to be representative rather than comprehensive, so we try to cover only the main Scottish stories, along with some stories from the rest of the UK. The purpose of the bulletin is to alert readers to items of interest. It should be noted that these items are the works of others and are neither authorised nor endorsed by the Care Inspectorate, with the exception of publications which are identified as Care Inspectorate publications.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted in this document.